



Technical Document
International Max Sort
Final Labelling Bag File Specification
Version 1.3

End User : Royal Mail Group plc

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1. Change History

Version	Release	Date	Author	Detail
1.0		02/11/2007		Initial release
1.1		14/11/2011		Enhancements for WAND labels
1.1	b	21/11/2011		Adjust Content Format codes to PGEMX
1.2		31/10/2012		Enhancements for WAND project
1.2	a	31/01/2013		Minor corrections
1.3		11/02/2014		Revision to Product Name, Service notations etc.

2. International Max Sort and Print Direct Destination Bag Labels

2.1 Bag Label Specification

Software developers who wish to produce an application to analyse and pre-sort mail using the Max Sort Database may also wish to produce a file containing a list of the bag labels required for either the International Max Sort Service or International Parcels Print Direct service. This file could be loaded into the standard Max Sort Final Labelling application (TVLDS).

This is a plain-text format file using Carriage-Return & Line Feed (shown as <CR-LF>, with ASCII value 13 & 10 or Hex value 0D & 0A) to terminate each record.

It comprises 2 parts:

HEADER – This is optional and contains information to confirm the purpose of the Bag File.

DETAIL – containing 1 or more rows containing the Codes for the bag labels which are required.

The system is designed to work using 4 character Destination Codes to specify the required bag labels required.

e.g. **ABJL** is a label for ABIDJAN (COTE D'IVOIRE) containing Letters.

However, it can also utilise a 10 character code formed from the 9 character International Selection Code combined with a single character representing the Format (i.e. type of items contained within the bag).

e.g. ROWIVC000 is the ISC for this destination. This should be presented through the bag label file as ROWIVC000L (for Letters) or ROWIVC000M (for M Bag).

Optionally, a header row item can be inserted into the file at various points to provide the FORMAT information, and the software will automatically append the Format code to any 9 character codes found in the bag label file, generating the 10 character code required.

2.2 File Structure

HEADER

FILETYPE=IDSCFL

This is a fixed element of text which is used during import to validate that the file is for the correct application – to help clients avoid importing an incompatible file into the labelling application. I propose that a similar identifier should be included in other Bag Labelling file formats, if they are published.

CUSTOMERID=<4 digit number>

To assist customers who may process items for more than 1 Customer ID, this can be provided. This is validated against the approved customer IDs installed into the labelling application.

If not provided, the system default is used during import.

SERVICE=<1 character> - P/E/S

Sets the service level for the labels listed under the Bag Label record. Normally, labels will be for the same service, but as certain destinations do not support all services, this may be over-ridden in the Bag Label record of the.

FORMAT=<1 character> - L/F/P/M

This is an optional field and is included to assist with legacy supply of data in cases where customer systems have to export the 9 character (IDC - International Selection Code) without the suffixed Format code identifier. Sets the Format type for the labels listed under the Bag Label record. If imported fields are 4 or 10 characters long, this is not used. If, however, imported records contain data in the relevant column, this will override the global setting here in each case.

Field Value	Description
L	Letter
F	Large Letter
P	Parcel
M	M Bag (for Print Direct)

DETAIL

Each column should be separated by a TAB (hex 09) character. Commas are also acceptable. Quotation characters can be included if preferred but are not required.

Purpose / Name	Field Size	Example/Notes
ISC (International Selection Code) Or DC (Destination Code)	10 characters or 4 characters	CUR or ROWABW000 This field can contain either the International Selection Code (9 characters plus 1 character Format) or the Destination Code (4 characters)
Quantity (optional)	3 digits	Quantity of labels required. If not supplied, defaults to 1
Service (optional)	1 character	P(riority), S(tandard) or E(conomy) If not provided, the default (as specified in the header) will be used

NB. The Max Sort Bag Label system has a minimum requirement of a single column of 10 or 4 character codes (the ISC or the DC). Any additional information (included within the file) will be used to the benefit of users by providing other settings or printing additional information on the bag labels.

Multiple labels for the same destination may be requested by providing a 'Quantity' column or simply by listing the destination as many times as needed, creating multiple Bag Label rows.

Example bag files are:

Simple, using Destination Code:

ABJL	<cr-lf>
ABJL	<cr-lf>
CURL	<cr-lf>
...	

Using International Selection Code:

ROWIVC000L	<cr-lf>
ROWIVC000L	<cr-lf>
ROWCUR000L	<cr-lf>
...	

Using Destination Code, including Service and quantity :

ABJL	<tab>	2	E	<tab>	<cr-lf>
CURL	<tab>	1	E	<tab>	<cr-lf>
...					

Using all the optional fields:

FILETYPE=IDSCFL				<cr-lf>			
CUSTOMERID=0001				<cr-lf>			
SERVICE=E				<cr-lf>			
FORMAT=L				<cr-lf>			
ABJ	<tab>	2	<tab>	E	<tab>		<cr-lf>
CUR	<tab>	1	<tab>	E	<tab>		<cr-lf>

The actual file would appear as :

ABJL
ABJL
CURX

or

ROWIVC000L
ROWIVC000L
ROWCUR000L

FILETYPE=IDSCFL
CUSTOMERID=0001
SERVICE=E
FORMAT=L
ROWIVC000L 2 E
ROWCUR000L 1 E